

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ
 Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Feinstein & Koretz Target Meth User Labs

Federal & State Legislation Seek Controls on Cold Medicines

(Los Angeles) – Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) joined today with U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D-California) to advocate for federal and state legislation that would require the tablet forms of pseudoephedrine-containing cold medicines to be sold behind retail counters. The state bill, AB 283, and the federal bill, S.103, are inspired by similar actions in Oregon and Oklahoma that have been credited with reducing crystal methamphetamine lab busts by 50 to 70 percent.

“Crystal meth is fueling an increase in HIV infections around the state and West Hollywood is at the epicenter. It is absolutely incredible how many problems are created by meth – HIV infections, child poisoning and developmental disorders, addiction and its destruction of successful lives, law enforcement injuries and deaths, fire and chemical hazards right inside our own neighborhoods, and toxic wastes that contaminate soil and water resources. We simply have to try what is working in other states,” said Assemblyman Koretz.

Methamphetamine gives the user a false sense of invincibility that can lead to riskier sexual activity. A study of San Francisco public health data found that meth users are three times more likely to test positive for HIV than non-meth users. Crystal has become the party drug of choice in the gay club scene and is making significant inroads in straight clubs as well.

The Koretz legislation exempts many forms of pseudoephedrine such as liquid capsules, dissolvable strips, and adult and pediatric liquids because they are not easily used in the illegal manufacture of crystal methamphetamine. These forms would be sold in the same manner as is the current practice.

In a committee hearing in April, AB 283 (Koretz) passed with bipartisan support and is co-authored by Senator Bob Margett (R-Arcadia), Assemblyman Bill Maze (R-Visalia), and Senator Elaine Alquist (D-Santa Clara). Similar bills are receiving bipartisan support in legislatures across the nation. Mr. Koretz is consulting with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department on the legislation.

“Cold tablets purchased and shoplifted from retail stores are a primary ingredient for traffickers cooking methamphetamine in clandestine labs in the community. These user labs not only feed a serious drug problem, but also pose a serious fire and chemical exposure hazard in residential neighborhoods. This bill will save lives,” said L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca.

The Feinstein legislation that would enact at the federal level provisions of existing California law limiting the quantity of pseudoephedrine that can be purchased in a single transaction as well as require sales from behind the pharmacy counter, photo I.D. check, and the signature of a transaction log.

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